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ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF WALMER,

FOR THE YEAR

1925,

BY

FRANK M. HUGHES, M.D., M.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

T. F. PAIN & SONS, DEAL & SANDWICH.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WALMER.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Health and Sanitary Condition of Walmer during the 12 Months ended 31st December, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALMER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Report relating to the 12 months ended 31st December last.

In paragraph 13 of Circular 540 of the 18th December, 1924, the Ministry of Health intimated that the report for this year should be a survey report, and give a record of the progress made in the area during the preceding five years. This I am endeavouring to do.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.

The area of the Urban District of Walmer, exclusive of foreshore, is 988 acres. The extent of the district has remained unaltered since 1901, when the area known as East Mongeham was added to the Walmer Urban District.

POPULATION.

The population of the district at the time of the 1921 Census was made up as follows:—

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Civilians | ... | ... | ... | 4542 |
| Marines | ... | ... | ... | 812 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| Total | | | | 5354 |
| | | | | <hr/> |

The figures for 30th June, 1925, supplied by the Registrar General, are:—

For the purpose of calculating Birth Rate, 5709

For the purpose of calculating Death Rate, 4469

I do not know how the Registrar arrives at these figures, and cannot understand the big difference between those given for births and those for deaths. However, I am assuming the larger figure as representing the total population on 30th June, 1925. A summary of the particulars on the same date obtained from the Marine Dépôt is as follows:—

| | |
|---|------|
| Officers, men, women and children residing | |
| in barracks | 1045 |

| | |
|---|------|
| By deducting these from the Registrar's | |
| larger figure we obtain the number of | |
| people living outside the barrack areas | |
| as | 4664 |

This works out at exactly 4 persons per house, and is, I think a reliable figure.

| | |
|--|------|
| So that the total population may be taken as | 5709 |
|--|------|

Physical Features.

Walmer has a sea-frontage of about two miles. It is divided into two wards, Upper Walmer and Lower Walmer. Generally speaking Upper Walmer lies on higher ground, the ground levels varying from about 25 feet to over 100 feet above Ordnance datum, while in Lower Walmer the levels vary from 20 to 25 feet above Ordnance datum.

The sub-soil throughout the whole area is chalk. Over a considerable area the chalk is covered by a thick bed of brick-earth, particularly in the portion comprising the 20 to 25 feet level. In some parts of Upper Walmer the depth of soil overlying the chalk is very shallow, while on a narrow strip which extends along the whole of the sea-front the chalk is covered to a depth of about 20 feet by a mixture of pebbles and sand.

Except for a small low-lying area, which is not likely to be built upon, the district is free from dampness. The ground dries very quickly, even after heavy and prolonged rainfall.

In all parts of the district spring water is found at about Ordnance datum.

Houses.

When the 1921 Census was taken there were 1,033 inhabited houses. These figures only refer to houses from which census returns were obtained. Houses which may have been fully furnished but temporarily unoccupied are not included.

The number of separate occupiers was returned as 1089.

The total number of dwelling-houses in the district at the end of 1925 was 1,166.

Where a house has been structurally altered so as to convert it into flats, each separate flat is counted as one house for the purpose of arriving at the total number of dwelling-houses.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district at the end of 1925 was £35,658.

A penny rate produces £140.

Social Conditions.

Walmer is a residential district, and has no staple trade.

The civilian population is largely composed of persons of independent means, and others employed by them either directly or indirectly. A number are employed at a local brewery, while others are engaged in the building and allied trades in this and the surrounding districts.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births in the Walmer district during 1925 was 63, a decrease of 17 compared with the number for 1924. The total is made up as follows:—

| | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Males | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Females | ... | ... | ... | 30 |

The birth-rate for 1925, calculated on the population supplied by the Registrar-General, is 11.03 per 1,000.

The birth-rate during the same period for the whole of England and Wales is 18.3 per 1,000.

The birth-rate for Walmer during—

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-------|-----|--------|
| 1924 | was | 17.43 | per | 1,000. |
| 1923 | was | 11.04 | per | 1,000. |
| 1922 | was | 10.73 | per | 1,000. |
| 1921 | was | 18.07 | per | 1,000. |
| 1920 | was | 17.61 | per | 1,000. |

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths included in the returns relating to this district for 1925 is 71. Of these 60 were actually residing in the district at the time of their decease, while 11 were Walmer residents who died in other districts. In the latter cases the record of deaths have been transferred to this district.

The total of 71 deaths calculated on the population returned by the Registrar-General gives a death-rate of 15.88 per 1,000 of the civilian population, compared with—

| | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 12.47 | per 1,000 | for 1924. |
| 12.08 | per 1,000 | for 1923. |
| 9.47 | per 1,000 | for 1922. |
| 14.00 | per 1,000 | for 1921. |
| 11.67 | per 1,000 | for 1920. |

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1925 is 12.2 per 1,000.

The certified causes of death are summarised as follows :—

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Enteric fever | ... | ... | 1 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | 2 |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 3 |
| Cancer, malignant | ... | ... | 13 |
| Cerebral hæmorrhage | ... | ... | 9 |
| Heart disease | ... | ... | 9 |
| Arterio-sclerosis | ... | ... | 1 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | 6 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach | ... | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhœa | ... | ... | 1 |
| Appendicitis and typhlitis | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of liver | ... | ... | 3 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | 4 |
| Congenital debility | ... | ... | 1 |
| Other defined diseases | ... | ... | 12 |

The number of deaths in Walmer during 1925 among infants under one year of age is 3. This gives a rate of 47.62 per 1,000 births, which compares very favourably with the rate for the whole of England and Wales, which is 75 per 1,000.

POOR RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Relief paid out each week in this district by the Relieving Officer was rather less than £3. From this it will be seen that there is very little extreme poverty in Walmer.

The Relieving Officer has stated that the Provision of Widows' Pensions, which came into operation in January, 1926, will very substantially reduce the amount of Poor Relief now paid in this district.

Health Services.

HOSPITALS.

The position as regards hospital accommodation for the treatment of tuberculosis, and for the isolation of small-pox and other infectious diseases, has not been substantially altered during the past five years.

The erection of a modern General Hospital, which was formally opened on 17th March, 1924, is a distinct advance in the right direction. It makes skilled medical attention and the advantage of thoroughly up-to-date appliances and equipment available for sick persons of all classes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Kent County Sanatorium at Lenham is the hospital to which suitable tubercular patients from this district are sent for treatment. It is provided and maintained by the Kent County Council.

There is also a Tuberculosis Clinic at Deal to which tubercular patients from Walmer may be sent by their medical advisers. The Clinic is open on one day in each week, and is under the direct supervision of the County Tuberculosis Officer.

When required to do so the Tuberculosis Officer or the Health Nurse visits the homes of patients, and advises as to the best means of carrying out domiciliary treatment.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The isolation of infectious diseases is provided for by an Infectious Diseases Hospital.

This hospital is on high ground near the southern boundary of the district of Deal, and is conveniently situated for both Deal and Walmer. The site has a chalk sub-soil, and is quite dry. The nearest dwelling-house, apart from the caretaker's house, is about 300 yards distant.

The main building is constructed of timber-framing covered on the outside with felt packing and corrugated iron, and on the inside with matchboarding. It contains two wards, with kitchen and nurses' quarters in between. Each ward contains six beds, is heated by a central stove, and has separate sanitary accommodation, disinfecting pan, and bath.

A small detached building of similar construction provides the means for isolating a second disease.

The caretaker and his wife are housed in a small brick-built cottage on the site.

The drainage from the hospital is discharged into the Deal sewerage system.

The supply of water, which is constant, is obtained from the Deal water mains.

Each patient, while in the isolation hospital, is attended by his or her medical adviser.

The cost of maintaining this hospital is borne by the Councils of Deal and Walmer, but the management is entirely in the hands of the Deal Town Council.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

The administrative buildings at Hammill Colliery are still retained as a temporary hospital for the isolation and treatment of small pox.

The cost of upkeep is apportioned on the population basis among the Boroughs of Deal and Sandwich, the Urban District of Walmer, and the Rural Districts of Eastry and Bridge.

There has been no occasion to use the buildings during the past year.

GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The general hospital, known as the Deal and Walmer War Memorial Hospital, was erected and is supported by voluntary subscriptions as a war memorial.

It stands on its own grounds on an ideal and convenient site off the main road in Deal.

The hospital contains three public wards, one each for males, females, and children. It has 40 beds, and is complete with up-to-date accommodation and equipment, including operating theatre and x-ray installation.

Medical relief is given gratuitously to such patients as are not able to pay for it.

There is now in operation an arrangement whereby the employees of some of the larger firms in this and surrounding districts contribute a small sum weekly towards the maintenance of the hospital, in return for which they are assured of free treatment in case of sickness or accident.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed to the isolation hospital in a horse-drawn ambulance belonging to the Deal Town Council.

Non-infectious and accident cases are conveyed by hand-drawn ambulances, which are stationed—one in the Walmer town-yard and the other at the Walmer Railway Station.

There is a strong detachment of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Deal and Walmer Division) of which I am the officer in command, and which is prepared to transport any case of accident or non-infectious illness at an hour's notice.

A motor ambulance was secured for the use of the brigade in 1924, and it has already done very valuable work.

LABORATORY WORK.

This is undertaken by the County Medical Officer at the County Laboratory, Maidstone. The laboratory has been most useful to me in the discharge of my duties, and is also of great assistance to other local medical men.

The Medical Officer in charge of the laboratory always gives every assistance possible, and with the utmost promptitude.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Kent County Council maintain a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the Masonic Hall in Deal. The Centre is opened every Friday. Mothers are encouraged to take their children to the Centre, where they are examined and weighed, and helpful advice is given regarding their general welfare and feeding. A medical man attends fortnightly. Infants' food and clothing is supplied at a reduced cost in necessitous cases.

The Centre Nurse visits the homes of newly born children, inspects the premises, and advises the parents as to the treatment of the infant.

A Free Infant Clinic was formed in 1921 by the Countess Beauchamp, and was taken over by the Kent County Council on August 1st, 1924. The Clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon at the Walmer Baptist School-room. This change was made necessary by the increasing amount of work to be done, the need for additional rooms, together with heavier expenses.

The County Medical Officer, after personal inspection, expressed his satisfaction with the premises, and also with the work done.

The Kent County Council appointed me to act as Medical Officer in charge of the Walmer Clinic.

The work of the Clinic continues to grow steadily, and I am sure it is of great value from the standpoint of public health.

There were 1,182 attendances at the Walmer Clinic during 1925.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are myself, as part-time Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. Herbert William Barker, the Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Barker, a whole-time officer of the Council, also holds the offices of Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council. There has been no new appointment during the past five years.

MIDWIVES.

There are three midwives practising in Walmer, but they are not employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

This district has been well provided for with respect to its supply of water for many years past, and for this reason there has been no special development during the past five years for me to report.

The water mains in this district are owned by the Walmer Urban District Council, who manage the distribution.

The quality of the water is very satisfactory, and the supply is constant and plentiful.

The actual pumping of the water is managed by the Deal and Walmer Joint Water Board, which is composed of an equal number of members from the Deal and Walmer Councils, acting under powers conferred on them by the Deal and Walmer Water Act, 1897.

The water is pumped from deep wells sunk in the chalk. The depth of the wells is 115 feet.

Adits driven from the bottom of the wells so as to intercept the fissures in the chalk, along which streams of water flow, collect the water and conduct it to the pump-sump at the bottom of the wells. The underground streams from which our supply is drawn flow from north-west to south-east, that is, towards the sea from Mongeham and Northbourne.

From time to time the Walmer Council has spent considerable sums of money in carrying out drainage works with the primary object of safeguarding the water from pollution. Sewers were laid in all the roads in the neighbourhood of the water works. All the houses previously drained into cesspools were redrained, and the new drains connected into the public sewers. The cesspools were afterwards emptied and then filled up with clean rubbish.

Within the past three or four years houses have been erected on a building estate, known as the Walmer Station Building Estate, which is just outside the Walmer district, and forms part of the Eastry Rural District. These houses are drained into cesspools, there being no sewers available. I think there is no doubt these cesspools are water-tight when constructed, but it is quite possible for holes to be cut through the sides later on. In view of this possibility, and because of the nearness of the building estate to the Deal and Walmer Waterworks, representations have been made to the Eastry Rural District Council by the Councils of Deal and Walmer, but so far without effect. Up to the present the development of the estate has been very slow, but should the number of houses increase substantially, no doubt the Councils of Deal and Walmer will feel compelled to take steps designed to remove the risk of pollution to their water supply.

There are three sets of pumps at the Waterworks.

First set, which is worked by compound beam engines, is capable of raising 550 gallons per minute.

Second set, is similar in every respect to the first set.

Third set, worked by compound horizontal engines, can raise 1,100 gallons per minute.

Practically the whole of the water raised is pumped direct into service reservoirs.

The Low-level reservoir, which has a capacity of 750,000 gallons serves both Deal and Walmer.

The High-level reservoir has a capacity of 100,000 gallons. It also serves both districts, but the proportion of the water pumped into this reservoir taken by Deal is very small indeed.

The quantity of water supplied to this Council by the Deal and Walmer Joint Water Board during the past year is 58,377,200 gallons, which gives an average of 159,937 gallons per day throughout the year.

Samples of water are collected from the mains at regular intervals and submitted to the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine for bacteriological and chemical examination.

The following is a copy of their last report :—

30th November, 1925.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Clear and free from smell.

ANALYTICAL DATA.

| Chemical. | Parts per 100,000. |
|---|--------------------|
| Suspended Matter | None |
| Dissolved Solids | 33.0 |
| Chlorine | 2.8 |
| Alkalinity | 21.2 |
| Total Hardness | 27.0 |
| Permanent Hardness | 7.5 |
| Free and Saline Ammonia | None |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | 0.002 |
| Nitrogen as Nitrites | None |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates | 0.72 |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at 37°C. in 3 hours | 0.032 |
| Metals, Lead, Copper and Zinc ... | None |

Bacteriological.

No. of organisms per c.c. growing on agar at 37°C.
in 2 days=5.

No. of organisms per c.c. growing on agar at 22°C.
in 4 days=13.

No organisms of the coliform group were found in
100 c.c.s.

The sample is chemically and bacteriologically
satisfactory.

(Signed) ROBERT ROBISON.
M. M. BARRATT.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage of the Walmer district is arranged on the
dual system. One set of sewers convey sewage, and the
other set rain-water only.

With the exception of a comparatively small area,
including and south of Walmer Castle, the whole of the
district is sewered.

Nearly all of the sewers and a considerable length of
the surface water drains are modern. The final redrainage
contract was completed in 1915. The system then included
long lengths of sewers in roads which were ready for build-
ing development, consequently there have been no extensions
since that time.

The sewage gravitates from all parts of the district into a large concrete storage-tank under the foreshore, whence it is discharged into the sea daily at a suitable state of the south flowing tide. The outfall pipe through which the sewage is discharged extends 1,000 feet into the sea measured from low-water mark of ordinary tides.

All the sewers are well and regularly flushed, either by means of underground flushing chambers, or by horse-drawn van. Some of the sewers serving districts which require special attention, are flushed daily by automatic flushing chambers. The main sewer in Lower Walmer is thoroughly scoured on three successive days every spring tide by sea water, which is admitted through a valve near the upper end of the sewer.

The sewers are well ventilated. They are known to be free from obstruction or deposit, and in good order.

The unsewered portion of the district previously referred to contains Walmer Castle and 33 dwelling houses. All these are drained into cesspools. A contract for the sewer-ing of this area was being prepared in 1914, but work was not proceeded with owing to the outbreak of war. Several times since 1918 the Council have considered the question of carrying out this work, but have not felt justified in proceeding in view of the very large increase in the estimated cost.

From a sanitary point of view the existing arrangement has given no trouble whatever. It is, however, desirable that the area should be sewered. The number of houses is slowly increasing, and if the increase continues there is no doubt the Council will feel compelled to satisfy the need for sewers before very long.

With two exceptions—both isolated cottages—every house in this district is drained through stone-ware pipe drains.

Almost all of these drains are laid clear of the buildings. Those provided with means of access are inspected from time to time, and are known to be in good working order. Speaking generally such trouble as is occasionally found proves to have been caused by some sort of obstruction in the intercepting trap.

1,126 of the dwelling-houses in this district are drained into public sewers, 38 into cesspools, and the remaining two are served by the pail system.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Out of the total 1,166 houses, 1,158 have at least one water closet each. There are 6 small cottages where there is only one closet to two houses, and the two isolated cottages served by pail closets.

There are still about 60 hand-flushed closets in this district. During the past few years the hand-flushed closets have been inspected several times. Whenever the condition of any of them has justified it, action has always been taken to compel the provision of flushing apparatus.

As stated in my last report the Sanitary Inspector has a complete record of the hand-flushed closets, giving situation of property, names of owner and tenant, and also the condition of the closet when last inspected.

SCAVENGING.

All the house-refuse in the Walmer district is collected in a covered motor lorry by the Council's workmen. Every occupied house in the district is visited once a week.

Until May, 1921, the refuse was deposited and sorted on a site in the built-up portion of the district comparatively close to dwelling-houses. As a number of complaints were received from the occupiers of surrounding houses the Council decided to establish a new dépôt outside the district.

The new dépôt is enclosed by a tall corrugated iron fence, and well away from dwelling-houses and public roads. Here it is sorted, and such refuse as is suitable for the purpose is carted on to the adjoining arable land and ploughed in. Old tins, crockery, broken glass, etc., are crushed by a steam roller, and then carted away from the site.

The present arrangement seems to be working quite satisfactorily. No complaints have been received during the time the new dépôt has been in use.

I have no record showing the number of houses where fixed ashpits have been replaced by moveable sanitary bins, having proper covers during the past few years, but the following statement shows the existing state of affairs:—

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of houses having fixed receptacles ... | 13 |
| No. of houses having proper sanitary bins and covers | 671 |
| No. of houses having boxes, buckets, etc. (mostly uncovered) | 340 |

The occupiers of quite a considerable number of houses, situate mostly in more sparsely built-up portions of the district prefer to dispose of their house-refuse by using it on their gardens.

In October, 1923, the Ministry of Health sanctioned a bye-law imposing on the occupiers of any premises duties which facilitate the work of collecting the house-refuse. Bills were distributed to the occupiers of houses pointing out the need for sanitary dust-bins having proper covers, and the result was very satisfactory. Many householders have since replaced old receptacles by galvanized dust-bins.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The dwelling-houses, bakehouses, slaughter-houses, cow-sheds, dairies, and factories are systematically inspected.

A record of the inspections, together with the result of any action, are entered in special registers.

Our general practice, wherever action is necessary, is to take informal steps. By this method the desired object is almost invariably attained without causing the irritation which seems inseparable from the service of a statutory notice. Often, where it is more convenient, owners are approached personally by your Inspector, and arrangements result whereby sanitary repairs and improvements are carried out without the service of a notice.

Your Sanitary Inspector made 370 inspections during the year, and as a consequence 32 informal notices, and 2 statutory notices were served.

As a result of the above notices, and the informal interviews—

8 drains, serving 8 houses, were re-laid.

1 drain, serving 1 house was repaired.

7 blocked drains, serving 26 houses, were cleared.

5 flushing cisterns, with pans and traps were fixed to re-place hand-flushed closets.

10 defective flushing cisterns were replaced by new fittings.

1 house was pulled down and re-built.

1 dirty house was cleaned,

and a number of minor repairs were attended to.

SCHOOLS.

There are three elementary schools and five private schools in the Walmer district.

All are in a good state of repair, and have a constant and sufficient supply of water for all purposes. With one exception, the Church Street elementary, all are provided with modern sanitary fittings, which are in good order. Acting on the recommendation of your Inspector the School Managers have caused the old fittings in the closets at the

Church Street school to be taken away, and modern pans and traps with flushing cisterns are now being fixed in the water closets. New drains have also been laid. A portion of the old drains passed under the floor of the school, but the new drains are arranged so that all the pipes are laid quite clear of the building.

Housing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Speaking generally the housing conditions in the Walmer area are good.

There is no doubt a shortage of the smaller type, but not to a serious extent. The building of small houses by private enterprise ceased in 1914.

During the past year the Council advertised with the object of ascertaining the extent of the need of additional cottages. The number of applications received pointed to a very considerable need, but when the applications were carefully scrutinised the Housing Committee found that several were from persons who already had a house and merely desired a change, and others were from applicants living outside this area who had probably made similar applications to other authorities.

The Council erected twelve non-parlour type of houses, six having three bedrooms, and six having two bedrooms. They stand on an acre of ground, are brick built and slated. All of them have a large living-room, kitchen-scuttery, bathroom with fixed bath, sanitary accommodation, ample cupboard room, and paved yards and paths. All are drained into the public sewer by drains which are absolutely water-tight, and have a supply of both water and gas laid on from the public mains. A further site, with room for eight houses, has been secured, but the Council have decided to wait until sufficient applications are received from persons residing in this district who are without housing accommodation and who would make suitable tenants, before proceeding further with the scheme.

OVERCROWDING.

Not one case of overcrowding was reported during the past year, and I am satisfied there is no serious overcrowding in this area. There is a number of houses which are occupied by two families, but, as explained in earlier reports, this condition of affairs cannot be remedied by a housing scheme. Many of the sub-tenants of these houses are married Marines, who, being stationed at Walmer for a comparatively short period, have no desire to furnish a house.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of the houses in the Walmer district is good.

Except for four wooden houses, all the dwellings in the area are substantially built of bricks, and roofed with tiles or slates. All have a constant supply of water and sufficient closet accommodation. Very few indeed are without sinks, and all are provided with slop-drains. The back yards of a few of the smaller houses are covered with shingle, but a far greater proportion are covered by some form of impervious paving.

As a general rule the defects found are of a minor character, such as obsolete or damaged sanitary fittings, blocked or defective drains, dampness due to broken eaves, spouting, or leaky water pipes. Almost without exception these defects are in connection with the older cottages, and the owners are responsible for the necessary repairs.

A systematic inspection of dwelling-houses is carried out by your Sanitary Inspector with the object of discovering houses which are in need of repair. There are none in the district which can be described as unfit.

When defects are discovered the Inspector either interviews or writes informally to the owner or agent. The result is that almost without exception the necessary works are put in hand without the service of formal notices.

Records giving particulars of the houses inspected are entered on special sheets—one for each house—and also in special registers. This system has been in operation since 1910, during which time all the smaller houses have been visited many times, and the sanitary conditions have benefited much in consequence.

There are no back-to-back houses in this district, and no unhealthy areas.

Housing Statistics.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of new houses built during 1925 | ... | ... | 28 |
| Including with State Assistance— | | | |
| (1) By Local Authority | ... | ... | 12 |
| (2) By other Persons | ... | ... | 4 |
| Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | ... | ... | 163 |
| Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | | | 1 |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by owner in consequence of informal notices | ... | | 1 |

Number in respect of which informal notices were
served requiring repairs 32

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices
were served requiring defects to be remedied 57

No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were
remedied after service of informal notices ... 52

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

A good deal of attention has been paid to the wholesomeness of the milk produced in the Walmer area, and the improved condition of the cows and cowsheds during the past five years is very remarkable and gratifying. Both the producers and their employees now realise that newer and more satisfactory methods of production are in their interests as well as the consumers.

MEAT.

In order to enforce the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, it has been necessary to make a larger number of visits to the slaughter-houses and shops. No trouble has been experienced, as the local butchers have been very helpful. A scheme of insurance run by the butchers in East Kent is beneficial to the general public as well as to the butchers, as the latter are compensated for diseased animals, and the temptation to sell diseased meat so as to avoid financial loss is removed.

BREAD.

There has been an improvement in the larger bake-houses during the past three years. One has been entirely re-built, and fitted with the most up-to-date equipment, and another has been fitted with a new steam oven which does away with much of the dirt inseparable from the old fashioned coal fire ovens.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The number of notifiable Infectious Diseases during the period since 1920 has fortunately been quite small. With the exception of an outbreak of Diphtheria at St. Clare School for boys in October, 1921, in which 19 cases were proved by swab examination to be infected with Diphtheria Bacilli (although only three boys were ill), and there were no fatal cases. The outbreak was due to a carrier case. The District has been quite free from anything in the nature of an epidemic of Infectious Diseases of any kind.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is always available locally as I have made arrangements with all the chemists to keep satisfactory stocks of anti-toxin.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined at the Kent County Laboratory and every facility is given to local medical men as well as to the Medical Officer of Health to have specimens, etc., examined.

Isolation of Infectious cases is satisfactorily carried out in the majority of cases by removal of the patient to the Deal and Walmer Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection is promptly carried out; clothes, blankets, etc., are steam disinfected, and the patient's room, etc., disinfected immediately on his removal to hospital, by the Sanitary Staff under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox prevention) Regulation, 1917.

From the following summary of cases of infectious diseases notified during the five years 1921-25 you will see that the district was comparatively free during the last year. It is gratifying to know that not one case of scarlet fever was notified during the whole of 1925. I have examined the register as far back as 1897 and only found one previous year—1912—during which no case of scarlet fever was notified.

| | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Small Pox ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria ... | 20 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever... | 4 | 11 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal Fever | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis ... | — | — | 4 | 9 | 7 |

Particulars of Infectious Diseases notified during 1925 are shown in the following statement:

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

| | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to hospital. | Total deaths. |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Diphtheria ... | 2 | 2 | None |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The case of enteric was a case from Egypt. She was very ill on arrival, and was removed to hospital as soon as possible, but died on the day after her reception in hospital.

The Health of the District.

The health of the district is satisfactory. The fact that no cases of scarlet fever occurred in 1925 is in itself satisfactory evidence that hygienic methods, combined with modern sanitation, drainage and ventilation of houses, have been helpful in preventing infectious disease in this locality.

The birth-rate is unfortunately lower than the previous year.

The death-rate is higher, but this increase is due to more deaths having occurred amongst the older residents.

In conclusion I am of the opinion that each year this district not only maintains a very high standard of efficiency in the interests of public health, but steadily endeavours to adopt any measure advisable to place it in the vanguard of progress as a first health resort.

Much hard and tactful work has been performed in his duties as Sanitary Inspector during the last five years by my colleague, Mr. H. W. Barker, and for this I am indebted to him.

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